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R. J. L. Kingsford

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*The
Publishers Association
1896-1946
With an Epilogue*

R. J. L. KINGSFORD, C.B.E.

*Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge ;
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Preface

This is a history of the first 50 years of the Association established by British book-publishers for the regulation of the common policies and practices of their trade. The picture is framed by two contrary verdicts on resale price maintenance, of which the first in 1852 surely postponed by some 40 years the founding of the Association and the second in 1962 vindicated the Net Book Agreement, which the Association had promoted as its first official act.

I have had much helpful criticism: from John Brown, who indeed encouraged me during his Presidency of the Association to attempt this incursion from publishing into authorship; from J. D. Newth; from F. D. Sanders and R. E. Barker, the past and present Secretaries of the Association; and from my son, A. L. Kingsford, who has also read the proofs. To all of them and to Miss Alice Cottam, whose typing of my MS. greatly eased my task, I am truly grateful. Sir Stanley Unwin and G. Wren Howard also read the chapters covering the years in which they were most active in the leadership of the Association, but them, alas, I can no longer thank. I am glad also to acknowledge useful information from Miss Livia Gollancz, John Baker, Harold Raymond, and Henry Schollick.

The archives of the Association have been made available to me without reservation.

Finally, I am grateful to the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press for undertaking the publication. It has been a pleasure once more to work, although in a different capacity, with the staff of the Press.

R. J. L. K.

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